

Ex. #1912

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WAR CRIMES OFFICE
Judge Advocate General's Department --- War Department
United States of America

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In the matter of the deaths of * Perpetuation of the testimony of
American prisoners of war at * James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc,
Mukden, Manchuria, from c/a 11 * R.C. 6983531.
November 1942 to c/a 30 August *
1945.

* * * * *

Taken at:

Rhodes General Hospital, Utica,
New York.

Date:

9 November 1945.

In the Presence of:

Norman W. Harris, Agent, 1251st SCU,
Foreign Positive Intelligence Section,
Security & Intelligence Division, Head-
quarters, Second Service Command, 1270
Sixth Avenue, New York, New York.

Reporter:

Norman W. Harris, Agent.

Questions by:

Norman W. Harris, Agent.

Q State your name, grade, serial number, and permanent home address.

A My name is James Alexander Gilbert. I am a Pfc; my serial number is 6983531. My permanent home address is RFD #1, Ellicott Road, Albion, New York.

Q State the date and place of your birth, and your civilian occupation.

A I was born on 4 July 1920 at Albion, New York. I was a student before entering the Army.

Q What formal education have you had?

A I have completed two years and two months of pre-medical school at the University of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York.

Q Have you recently returned to the United States from overseas?

A Yes; I returned to the United States on 1 October 1945 by plane. I landed at Mitchel Field, Long Island.

Q Were you a prisoner of war?

A Yes.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

Q At what places were you held, and state the approximate dates.

A I was captured at Fort Hughes, P.I., on 6 May 1942. I was taken to Cabanatuan prison camp, where I was held until 5 October 1942. I was then taken to a prison camp at Mukden, Manchuria, where I was held from 11 November 1942 until my liberation by Russian forces on 30 August 1945.

Q Are you familiar with the circumstances surrounding the deaths of American prisoners of war at Mukden, Manchuria, from on or about 11 November 1942 to on or about 30 August 1945?

A Yes.

Q Describe what you knew of your own knowledge concerning these conditions.

A I arrived, with a group of approximately 2000 Americans, at Mukden, Manchuria, on or about 11 November 1942. We were a labor force and were employed in factories in Mukden. We were barracked in brick buildings, forty-eight men to a room which measured approximately twenty by thirty feet. We slept on double-deck wood bunks. Although we had an American doctor, no medical supplies were available for men who suffered from pneumonia or other diseases, and we got so little food that many men died of starvation. Our diet for the entire time I was there consisted of maize and soy beans. I recall that about 250 American prisoners of war died during the first two months I was at Mukden. These men died either from starvation or dysentery. We were unable to do anything to save their lives. I remember the names of three men who died of dysentery; James Francis, G Btry, 59th Coast Artillery; Kenneth Carlson, Hq, 3rd Bn, 59th Coast Artillery; and Verdone D. Yancey, formerly of the G Btry, 59th Coast Artillery. During the time I was at this camp many men died of dysentery, malnutrition, or pneumonia, but I do not recall any of the names, and I do not know the total number of deaths.

Q Who was the Japanese officer in charge of this camp?

A Colonel Matsudo. He was about five feet, five inches tall, and heavy-set. The skin of his face was very wrinkled. He was lame in the right leg and wore horn-rimmed glasses.

Q Who was the senior American officer at this camp?

A Major Hankins, USA, formerly with the 59th Coast Artillery.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Q What sort of work did you do at this camp?

A We worked in nearby factories. There was a machine factory, a steel mill, a tannery, a lumber mill, and a textile factory. I worked in the machine factory for a while, and later I worked in the steel mill. While I was working in the steel mill, I worked sixteen hours a day rolling steel. Because of this heavy work and the poor food, I lost over sixty pounds in weight during the time I was held at Mukden.

Q What articles were manufactured at Mukden?

A We made steel helmets for the Japanese Army, concrete reinforcing strips, railroad car wheels, airplane parts, and gears for large caliber guns.

Q Who were some other American prisoners of war who were with you at Mukden?

A There was Major Hankins; a medical officer, Captain Herbert Herbst, who was formerly with the 57th Philippine Scout Regiment, and there was S/Sgt Paul Lukas, formerly with the 17th Tank Ordnance Corps, now at Rhoads General Hospital. Then there was Sharkey Brown, formerly a Chief Water Tender in the Navy.

/s/ James Alexander Gilbert, 6983531
James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc, 6983531

State of New York)
) SS
County of Oneida)

I, James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc, 6983531, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation, and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

/s/ James Alexander Gilbert, 6983531
James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc, 6983531

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of November 1945.

/s/ Albert E. Parker
ALBERT E. PARKER, 2d Lt, MAC
Summary Court

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Norman W. Harris, Agent, 1251st SCU, FPI, SID, certify that James Alexander Gilbert, Pfc, ASN 6983531, personally appeared before me on 9 November 1945, and testified concerning war crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

Place: 1270 Sixth Avenue,
New York, New York

/s/ Norman W. Harris

Date: 20 November 1945

Agent, 1251st SCU, Foreign Positive
Intelligence Section, Security &
Intelligence Division, Headquarters
Second Service Command, 1270 Sixth
Avenue, New York, New York

A TRUE COPY:

/s/ Harryman Dorsey
HARRYMAN DORSEY, Capt., JAGD

8/21/84

答、私、名前ハ、ジョン・アーヴィング・スミスベントアリス。松公守兵テアリ
シテ認識票番號ハ、第六九三五三號アリス。松、本籍ハ、ヨーロッパ、
アルベン州エリコット街 RFD一號アリス。

× × × × ×

答、私ハ、一九四二年五月六日三時寅賓諸島フオートビーンチ捕獲ラレ
ニタ。私がバナナアン埠廣收容所連行カレ其所ニ一四年十月五
日テ抑留セシム。私がカラ滿洲奉天ニ於く埠廣收容所連
行カレ其所ニ一四年十月十一日ヨリ一九四五年一月三十日露西亞軍隊
ツテ解放サル。テ抑留セシム。

× × × × ×

答、私ハ、一九四三年十月十日カ看ニテ其頃滿洲奉天ノ約二千名、米人國
体ト共三列着用シテ。我々一種、劣等役隊アリテニ子奉天ニ於
ケル諸工場ア使ハシテ。我々は煉瓦造、建物を收容セラ幅約二十呎、
奥行約三十呎、廣サ一室ニ四十父、割合テハシラマシタ。我々ハ重
載官木製寝床、上ニ睡眠ヲ取りシム。我々ハ一人米人医師が居
タレス。肺炎又は其他、疾患ニ化り懨ニテ居人達、多く医療
用品ハ利用スコトが出来セシマセキ。而シテ我々ハ非常品ヲ豊富
食物ニカクスルナカウタシ多々人達が餓死セシム。夕食
衣々が其所ニ抑留セシム全期間中、食事ハ玉蜀黍大豆が供
セラシム。我が奉天ニ居リマシタ最初、二ヶ月間ニ約三百七十人米人
埠廣が死亡シテ想ひが云アス。之幸運ハ飲食カサモナシバ赤
痢死セシム。我々彼等、生命ヲ取フ為ヘ何ヲハコト出来セシム。

× × × × ×

答、松公守兵附近、諸工場ニテ有す事キアリ。其所ニ機械工場、製鋼工場、製本
工場、機械工場、及じ鐵物工場が有リテ。私、暫く間機械工場
弱私テ車輪子製鋼工場にて働キシム。其後、松が動、テ居リテ一月間
弱ナル食料、為スル奉天ニ抑留セシム間ニ六十磅以上体重増ラ
シム。

× × × × ×

問、如何ナル物品が奉天ニ於く制産せシムカ。
答、我々日本軍用鉄錠ヲリト補強用鉄線、鐵道車輛、飛行機部品、
及ビ大口径砲用、砲弾ヲ送リシム。

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